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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

PAGE

COTTON

United Kingdom Cotton Imports Continue at Reduced Levels....... 102
Belgium's Cotton Stocks Lower Than Last Year.................. 103
India Suspends Cotton Imports From All Countries Except Egypt.. 105
U.S. Cotton Exports Hold at Favorable Level.................. 107

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Denmarks's Butter Exports to U.K. Up.......................... 86
Powdered Milk Plant Begins Operation in Costa Rica............ 87
Venezuelan Milk Producers Organize as Cooperative............. 87
Decline in Over-All Imports of Products Into the Federation of Rhodesia.. 88
Tunisia's Dairy Imports Up During 1955........................ 89
Gold Coast Dairy Imports Show Increase in 1955................ 89
South West Africa Reports 1955 as Good Year for Dairying...... 90

FATS, OILSEEDS AND OILS

Egypt's Cottonseed Oil Import Requirements Expected to be Large... 97
Argentina Sells Sunflower Seed Oil to Paraguay................. 99
Denmark Likely to Import More Vegetable Oils, Less Oilseeds in 1956... 100
Australian Government Whaling Station Sold.................... 107

FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

1955-56 World Citrus Production at High Level................. 91
Syrian Dried Fruit Prospects Up for Figs But Down for Apricots.. 96
French Prune Crop Down.. 96
Cold Wave Practically Eliminates Italian Pistachio Crop....... 96

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, SEEDS AND FEEDS

Canada's 1955-56 Wheat and Flour Exports in Excess of 300 Million Bushels... 72
World Rice Trade Up in 1955................................... 76

(Continued on following page)

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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Chile Authorizes Mutton for Export.......................... 82
Argentina Sets Lower Exchange Rate for Imported Bulls........... 82
Australians Develop Mechanical Wool Shearing Tables............. 83
Panama Increases Imports of Breeding Cattle..................... 83
Uraguayan Meat Packing House Closed by Strike.................. 84
U.K. Exports of Breeding Stock in 1955......................... 84
Australian Wool Sales Week Ending June 15 Total 65,000 Bales..... 85
Chile Imports Hogs from United States.......................... 86
U.S.S.R. Buys Packing House and Tanning Products from Argentina.. 86

TOBACCO

Egyptian Tobacco Importers Pay Larger Premiums for U.S. Dollars.. 69
Canadian Cigarette Production Continues to Rise.................. 69
Cigarette Tax Increased in the Philippine Republic............... 70
Norway Shows Increased Preference for Cigarettes................. 70
Cuba Increases Tobacco Quota for 1957 Crop....................... 71

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Mexican Production of Ixtle De Palma Below Demand................ 71
Mexican Production of Istle Leghuguilla Low...................... 74
Sisal Production Continues Increase in Mozambique................ 75
An Additional Source of Soluble Coffee........................... 82
1955-56 World Cocoa Bean Crop Near 1954-55 Level................. 108

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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EGYPTIAN TOBACCO IMPORTERS PAY LARGER PREMIUMS FOR U. S. DOLLARS

At the present time all tobacco used in Egypt is imported, but tobacco imports are still complicated by the shortage of foreign currency. It is now necessary to pay a premium of 20 percent to obtain U. S. dollars. Tobacco importers have paid a premium to buy dollars on the free market for several years, but this, however, is the largest premium paid in recent years.

Egyptian smokers continue to buy more American-blended type cigarettes and this type increased to 32 percent of all tobacco manufactures in 1955. This trend since the end of World War II has been at the expense of straight oriental cigarettes, which have declined to 25 percent of production from their previous dominant position. Straight Virginia cigarettes are increasing very slowly and now comprise 13 percent of the total production of all tobacco products. Filter tips are increasing at a phenomenal rate -- in February 1956, 40 million were produced compared to only 16 million in February of the previous year.

Tobacco production has been prohibited since 1890; however, investigations in production by the Ministry of Agriculture have been in process since 1918. These investigations show that the Egyptians face a serious handicap as their soil and climate do not seem suitable for the growth of high grade cigarette leaf. In 1954, the Egyptian Government revoked the ban against tobacco production and prepared a comprehensive 5-year experimental tobacco program. The full program has not been put into effect, but some tobacco has been grown. The quality of leaf produced, however, does not offer much encouragement for commercial production.

CANADIAN CIGARETTE PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO RISE

Cigarette output in Canada continued to rise during the first three months of 1956. During this period 6.1 billion pieces were produced, a substantial gain over the 5.6 billion produced in the first quarter of 1955. Output of cigars also increased during this period with a production of 63.5 million pieces compared to 57.2 million for the first quarter of 1955. Production of cut tobacco, snuff, plug and twist was lower than in the first quarter a year earlier.

Continuation of manufacturing operations at this rate throughout the year would result in a material increase in amount of leaf used in 1956. Factory consumption of leaf during 1955 was 107.6 million pounds -- an increase of 5 percent over the previous year.

CIGARETTE TAX INCREASED IN THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

A tobacco tax bill was signed June 15, 1956 increasing the excise tax on medium and high grade Virginia-type cigarettes two pesos (equivalent to one U.S. dollar) per 1,000 cigarettes (2 cents per pack of 20 cigarettes). The increased excise tax is being passed on to the consumer in higher prices. These cigarettes, made primarily from flue-cured tobacco imported from the United States, will probably lose some customers who may switch to lower priced cigarettes made entirely from domestic tobacco. This bill also increases the tax on imported "machine packaged cigarettes" to $13.20 U.S. dollars per 1,000 cigarettes, or a total tax of 27 U.S. cents per pack of 20 cigarettes. In addition to reduced legal consumption of cigarettes in these classes, there will probably also be an increase in illegal entry of the higher price brands.

The President of the Philippines inaugurated a ($2 million U.S. dollars) redrying plant in Agoo, La Union Province, the heart of the flue-cured area. This is the first government-owned tobacco processing establishment to be built in the Philippines and it is equipped with modern U.S. machinery.

President Magsaysay used this occasion to indicate that he believed some revisions necessary in existing tobacco legislation. He stated that he was in favor of higher price supports for the better grades of domestic flue-cured and indicated that lower quality grades should not be supported. Action of this type might place the production of Philippine flue-cured on a sounder basis by stimulating efforts to produce better quality leaf. However, high-quality imported tobaccos with flavor and aroma will still be needed if the better quality cigaretees in demand are to be produced. There is a growing realization in the Philippines that unless corrective actions on domestic production and price support measures are taken quickly, the rapidly increasing production of neutral low quality flue-cured will lead to burdensome surpluses of this kind of leaf. President Magsaysay has recommended that farmers turn their attention to other crops, such as coffee and cotton. He further stated that he thought that tobacco should be bartered to other countries for consumer goods.

NORWAY SHOWS INCREASED PREFERENCE FOR CIGARETTES

During 1955, Norwegian consumer preferences continued to shift to cigarettes while the consumption of smoking tobacco, snuff and chewing tobaccos declined. Cigar consumption also increased to 20.9 million in 1955, but still did not reach the postwar high of 22.7 million established in 1948. Cigarette consumption of 1,427 million pieces is the largest on record and an increase of nearly 100 million over 1954. Cigarette production now accounts for 36 percent of the raw leaf processed in Norwegian tobacco factories.

Consumption of smoking tobacco declined for the first time since the war dropping to 5.8 million pounds in 1955 from the record 5.9 million in 1954. Consumption of chewing tobacco and snuff continued to decline with an output of only 1.7 million pounds in 1955.

CUBA INCREASES TOBACCO QUOTA FOR 1957 CROP

The Cuban Ministry of Agriculture has announced that production of 97.9 million pounds of tobacco will be allowed for the 1957 crop - - 91.3 million pounds of sun grown and 6.6 million pounds of shade grown leaf. This is an increase of 16.8 million pounds over the 81.1 million pounds allotted for the 1956 crop. It is expected, however, that the 1956 allotment will be greatly exceeded as present estimates place the crop at 94.7 million pounds.

MEXICAN PRODUCTION OF IXTLE DE PALMA BELOW DEMAND

Production of ixtle de palma (or palma istle fiber) was reported at about 26.46 million pounds in 1955 compared with 29.45 million in 1954. The production forecast for 1956 is the same as the 1955 output. Small production in the past year is attributed to a labor shortage in the industry, adverse weather conditions, and diversion of land to other crops.

Mexico is the principal producer of ixtle de palma. Most of the production is used in bags or ropes in Mexico. Exported fiber is shipped principally to the United States for use in cordage.

Carryover stocks in Mexico had been at 6.61 million pounds at the beginning of 1954, but dwindled to 2.20 million at the beginning of 1955, and were exhausted by 1956. The current shortage of the fiber is expected to result in only negligible stocks by the end of this year.

Mexican consumption of palma was 28.07 million pounds in 1955, and is expected to equal production in the current year. Because of the serious shortage of ixtle de palma, Mexican bag manufacturers are seeking substitute fibers, but they are finding them also in short supply. Current capacity for consumption is about 36 million pounds. The present low level of production has forced most factories to operate below capacity and some to shut down part time.

Export permits for palma fiber have been withheld since May 1955 because of the fiber shortage. No exports are expected in 1956.

Control of exports of ixtle de palma was established in 1942, with the requirement that all exports must be made through the "Distribuidora y Exportadora de Palma" and subject to permit from the Ministry of National Economy. Exports have been controlled continuously since then.

The palma fiber market has reacted to the shortage of fiber with an uptrend in prices. The official price was raised from the equivalent of 4 cents to over 4.5 cents a pound in April 1955, but the market price had advanced to 5.3 cents by the end of September, and to 6.6 cents through another 6 months.

CANADA'S 1955-56 WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS IN EXCESS OF 300 MILLION BUSHELS

Latest indications are that Canada's combined exports of wheat and flour during the 1955-56 (July-June) marketing season will amount to approximately 301 bushels (grain equivalent) compared with the 254 million bushels exported in 1954-55. Official figures show that exports during the first 9 months (July-March) of the season amounted to only 180 million bushels against 196 million in the same period a year ago. However, overseas clearances are reported at 34 million bushels for April, 43 million bushels for May and 44 million bushels for June.

At the estimated level of 301 million bushels, Canada's 1955-56 exports of wheat and flour would be the highest since 1952-53 when they amounted to 392 million bushels. The average for the 5-year period (1945-46/1949-50) immediately following the end of World War II was 252 million bushels. This compares with the prewar (1934-35/1938-39 average of 175 million bushels.

Of the estimated 301 million bushels exported during 1955-56, shipments in the form of grain are placed at approximately 263 million bushels and those in the form of flour at 38 million bushels grain equivalent. During 1954-55, exports of wheat amounted to 211 million bushels and of flour to 43 million bushels grain equivalent.

Complete details with respect to actual destinations of the 1955-56 exports are available only for the first 9 months (July-March) of the season. These are shown in the following table. Exports during the last 3 months (April-June) of the season showed a sharp upward trend because of large sales to countries back of the Iron Curtain.

Shipments to Iron Curtain countries during April and May alone amounted to 18,933,000 bushels. Of that total 6,995,000 bushels went to Russia, 5,235,000 bushels to Poland, 4,003,000 bushels to Czechoslovakia, 1,570,000 bushels to East Germany and 1,130,000 bushels to Hungary. Shipments to these destinations are believed to have continued at a substantial level during June. Canada exported no wheat to those countries in 1954-55.

Canadian Exports of Wheat and Flour During Stated Periods

Destination	July-March 1954-55			July-March 1955-56		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere						
United States	2,784	423	3,207	5,458	592	6,050
Central America	67	1,504	1,571	58	1,434	1,492
British West Indies	19	3,682	3,701	24	3,919	3,943
Cuba	739	690	1,429	228	450	678
Other Caribbean	10	703	713	3	960	963
Colombia	1,541	749	2,290	-	193	193
Venezuela	20	3,109	3,129	58	2,855	2,913
Ecuador	1,340	6	1,346	1,093	-	1,093
Peru	-	72	72	-	39	39
Others	-	286	286	209	224	433
Total	6,520	11,224	17,744	7,131	10,666	17,797
Europe						
Norway	3,196	-	3,196	2,599	-	2,599
United Kingdom	69,109	10,277	79,386	64,711	7,973	72,684
Ireland	2,091	-	2,091	2,208	-	2,208
Netherlands	9,673	3	9,676	5,941	1	5,942
Belgium-Luxembourg	12,226	-	12,226	9,004	226	9,230
West Germany	19,882	404	20,286	15,929	207	16,136
Austria	856	-	856	1,739	-	1,739
Switzerland	6,954	-	6,954	3,577	-	3,577
Poland	-	-	-	7,481	-	7,481
Malta	1,655	-	1,655	1,318	-	1,318
Italy	748	98	846	3,916	186	4,102
Yugoslavia	3,620	10	3,630	-	7	7
Others	330	172	502	777	197	974
Total	130,340	10,964	141,304	119,200	8,797	127,997
Asia						
Lebanon	3,000	87	3,087	-	110	110
Israel	-	-	-	724	-	724
India	2,190	-	2,190	-	-	-
Hong Kong	-	791	791	421	450	871
Japan	19,307	-	19,307	19,980	511	20,491
Philippines	-	4,638	4,638	-	4,134	4,134
Others	388	1,556	1,944	770	911	1,681
Total	24,885	7,072	31,957	21,895	6,116	28,011
Africa						
Libya	224	-	224	-	-	-
British West Africa	-	878	878	-	956	956
Union of South Africa	2,294	-	2,294	3,495	-	3,495
Belgian-Congo	-	563	563	-	602	602
Others	591	91	682	462	112	574
Total	3,109	1,532	4,641	3,957	1,670	5,627
Oceania	-	67	67	-	73	73
World Total	164,854	30,859	195,713	152,183	27,322	179,505

MEXICAN PRODUCTION OF ISTLE LECHUGUILLA LOW

Mexican production of ixtle de lechugilla (or istle lechugilla fiber) was forecast at 17.6 million pounds for 1956. This is about the same as in 1955, but only 72 percent of the 24.55 million pounds produced in 1954. The fiber is utilized in Mexico in various kinds of brushes, cordage, and other products, but its principal use outside of Mexico is in household brushes. Estimates for the past 6 years are shown below for comparison.

Table I. - Mexico: Production of ixtle de lechuguilla

Calendar years	Million pounds	Calendar years	Million pounds
1950	19.08	1953	24.21
1951	13.66	1954	24.55
1952	19.76	1955	17.64

Source: Official estimates of the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, 1950 through 1954. Preliminary estimates for 1955.

Mexico is the principal source of ixtle de lechuguilla. It is harvested from wild growths. Collection of the fiber is by the government-controlled "La Forestal," which in turn uses it in its own processing factories or sells it to independent processors.

The lower production level of the past year is attributed to a labor shortage in the industry, adverse weather conditions, and diversion of land to other crops. There is a shortage of all grades of fiber, but particularly of the longer and better grades.

Mexican consumption is small, and the carryover at the end of 1955 was reduced to nothing. No carryover is expected at the end of the current year.

Exports of ixtle de lechuguilla totalled 24.5 million pounds in 1955. The United States furnished the market for nearly 45 percent of the total, and the Netherlands accounted for a large share of the balance.

The price was raised in November to about 14 percent higher than in most of 1955. The current short supply is expected to result in an even higher rate by the end of 1956. After November the price was 11.7 cents a pound at the collection agency.

SISAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES INCREASE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Production of sisal fiber and tow in Mozambique increased to 59.15 million pounds in 1955 from 54.36 million in 1954 and 37.03 million in 1946. Prewar production averaged about 32.3 million pounds. Fiber and tow account for about 99 percent of the total production, and waste makes up about 1 percent.

Table I. Mozambique: Sisal production, calendar years 1950 to 1955

Calendar year	Sisal production			
	Fiber	Tow	Waste	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1950	37.76	2.49	0.40	40.65
1951	38.70	2.70	.50	41.90
1952	39.15	2.78	.49	42.42
1953	45.40	3.17	.56	49.13
1954	50.68	3.68	.47	54.83
1955	54.71	4.44	.60	59.75

Compiled from data of the Mozambique Sisal Producers' Association, Lourenco Marques, Mozambique.

Fiber is produced chiefly in the Nampula District which harvests about 54 percent of the total. About 27 percent is grown in Quelimane, 14 percent in Cabo Delgado, and the remaining 5 percent in Beira and Inhambane.

Domestic consumption is small. The output of rope, which is the principal product, has totalled only about 100,000 to 350,000 pounds in any recent year. Quelimane formerly manufactured more than 50 percent of the sisal products of Mozambique, but Nampula and Quelimane each account for approximately 45 percent of the total in recent years.

Exports of sisal from Mozambique totalled 58.88 million pounds of fiber and tow and 0.56 million of waste in 1955. This was the largest on record. Roughly 10 percent of the total is exported to Portugal and Portuguese possessions, and 90 percent to other countries. The United States furnishes the principal market. All European countries receive roughly 50 percent of the total, with France, West Germany, and the Netherlands ranking highest in importance.

WORLD RICE TRADE UP IN 1955

International trade in rice during 1955 increased 8 percent over the preceding year and exceeded the previous largest postwar exports of 1952, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Exports, including re-exports, from all countries totaled 11,320 million pounds in terms of milled rice compared with 10,450 million pounds in 1954, and 11,290 million pounds in 1952.

Some improvement is noted in the surplus countries of Asia toward regaining rice exports as compared with prewar trade. Total exports of the Far East reached 8,500 million pounds as compared with 7,800 million pounds in the year before and with the average of 4,600 million pounds in the immediate postwar (1946-50) period. Average exports and re-exports from this area prior to World War II amounted to 18,400 million pounds.

Exporting countries: The increase in world rice exports over 1954 was due primarily to the disposal of large surpluses by the principal exporting countries of Asia - Burma and Thailand. In addition to this, Pakistan and Taiwan had the largest exports in several years.

The principal exporting countries of Africa, South America, and Oceania also increased rice trade. On the other hand, exports decreased from the exporting countries of North America and Europe.

Rice exports from Burma in 1955 were up sharply, being 16 percent above those of the preceding year and the largest in postwar years. Through trade and barter agreements, Burma disposed of the burdensome surplus that had accumulated from previous crops together with most of the 1954-55 production. The increased exports of 1955, however, were only 58 percent of average (1936-40) prewar exports of 6,500 million pounds annually.

Thailand's rice exports were above those of 1954, but were less than 2 years before. Even though that country at the beginning of the year held a large carry-over from previous years' crops, the total export availability was reduced by lowered production in 1954-55. Sales during 1955 actually created a temporary shortage within the country during the last 3 months of the year.

Rice exports from the United States, the third largest exporter, declined 7 percent from the preceding year and 35 percent from the record exports of 1952. Exports from Italy and Spain dropped also, 14 and 17 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Egypt, British Guiana, and Australia increased rice exports because of increased production and ready buyers at a relatively favorable price.

Importing countries: Some shifts occurred in world rice markets during 1955. Rice imports increased in many countries that have had reduced imports of rice since the early part of World War II. These countries before the war were not as heavy importers of rice as some countries of Asia; however, the total quantities taken represented a considerable proportion of world trade.

This trend toward resumed rice imports is noted particularly in Europe. It is evident also in Africa. Areas in the Near East and Oceania also increased imports.

The largest postwar imports of rice into Western Europe of 1,286 million pounds were 39 percent more than in the year before. This increased quantity, however, was only 44 percent of prewar (average 1936-40) rice imports of 2,950 million pounds. Significant increases occurred over 1954 in the Netherlands (64 percent); Belgium-Luxembourg (44 percent); France (22 percent); United Kingdom (57 percent); Yugoslavia (300 percent); and Switzerland (8 percent).

On the other hand, some countries of Asia that took the largest quantities in recent years decreased rice imports in 1955. The most noticeable reductions were in India, Japan, and Indonesia. These were offset to some extent by a pronounced increase in rice imports in Malaya.

A decline in the total rice imports of North America was due mainly to a reduction into Cuba. Imports with the British West Indies, however, were up substantially. Total South American imports were 76 percent less than in the year before. Bolivia was the principal importer, and minor imports entered some other countries.

World rice trade in 1956: Total world exportable supplies of rice in 1956 are estimated at approximately 20 percent more than actual exports of 1955. As of January 1, Burma held around 30 percent of these total export availabilities; 25 percent were in the United States; 23 percent in Thailand; and 22 percent were in all other countries.

Rice supplies available for export from Asian sources in 1956 are estimated at a little less than actual exports in 1955. Indications are that 1956 sales from Burma and Thailand will absorb all but normal working stocks.

On the other hand, export supplies of rice from the United States are 3 times as large as its 1955 calendar year exports. Heavy shipments from the United States during 1956 under surplus-disposal programs indicate a reduction in stocks.

RICE (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1946-50, annual 1953-55

Continent and country	Average 1946-50		1953		1954 1/		1955 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA:								
British Honduras	-	2,644	-	2,377	-	3,664	-	-
Canada	1,026	42,747	100	61,895	1,242	72,887	0	70,954
Costa Rica	626	1,936	3,344	1	0	1	-	18,000
El Salvador	3,598	108	4	429	4,834	10,251	2/ 2,600	2/ 12,927
Honduras 3/	2,294	466	1,783	20	1,798	2,111	-	-
Mexico	47,314	1,560	4	10	1	519	4/	549
Nicaragua	10,643	4/	40,486	1	22,484	4/	-	-
Panama, Republic of	4	6,713	-	1	-	1	-	6,000
United States	962,170	3,170	1,735,134	21,986	1,224,809	28,424	1,138,184	410
Bahamas	-	2,647	-	4,480	-	-	-	-
Barbados	-	16,330	-	21,392	-	15,812	-	2/ 11,639
Bermuda	-	529	-	441	-	558	-	-
Cuba	1	540,796	1,259	561,580	-	416,000	-	250,330
Dominican Republic	2,188	1,776	3,502	-	50	8	4/	4/
Guadeloupe	88	12,165	-	14,722	-	17,039	-	2/ 14,980
Haiti 5/	824	442	114	243	19	332	-	1,218
Jamaica	-	16,486	-	34,598	-	27,157	-	37,679
Other British West Indies	-	11,440	-	11,023	-	-	-	-
Martinique	-	5,388	-	4,501	-	5,487	-	-
Netherlands Antilles	882	5,498	-	6,393	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	26,847	50	43,975	54	32,162	-	41,389
Total	1,031,937	704,512	1,788,231	794,068	1,257,791	657,813	1,140,784	518,475
EUROPE:								
Austria	7	22,621	0	55,545	33	54,404	-	6/ 58,775
Belgium and Luxembourg	603	47,354	16,299	60,150	13,393	79,956	15,039	115,282
Denmark	0	2,030	17	14,415	1,792	17,725	1,317	12,259
Finland	0	3,441	-	15,079	-	39,969	-	33,964
France	1,001	78,731	19,705	67,807	1,706	142,522	4,080	174,085
Germany, Western	-	88,967	3,814	204,939	1,592	175,894	7,791	239,605
Greece	-	29,596	45,986	1,531	408	9,104	4,813	6,598
Iceland	-	1,064	-	1,005	-	858	-	-
Ireland	-	3,113	-	6,273	-	4,952	-	5,644
Italy	182,919	746	536,767	4	433,654	1	373,984	1,821
Malta	-	1,463	-	2,191	-	1,526	-	-
Netherlands	11,906	52,742	60,653	88,590	53,805	164,732	58,085	269,958
Norway	0	3,395	-	13,131	12	8,223	4/	10,811
Portugal	4,394	18,066	23,911	1,415	1,949	2,116	151	895

Spain	118	1,402	122,498	7	133,297	3	109,788	9
Sweden	82	11,496	15	21,352	9	17,066	0	16,819
Switzerland	40	47,191	50	53,177	38	39,857	26	42,926
United Kingdom	3,120	83,431	730	118,985	-	152,632	-	240,255
Yugoslavia	-	2,116	-	5,721	-	10,580	7,349	44,253
Total countries shown	204,190	498,965	830,495	731,317	642,438	922,120	583,173	1,286,459
Total Europe	204,278	515,132	832,920	773,301	651,938	961,120	593,173	1,686,459
ASIA:								
Aden	5,600	11,067	11,243	19,407	12,320	15,792	56,224	71,680
Cyprus	-	3,947	-	6,217	-	3,252	-	5,637
Iran 7/	46,281	111	108,022	40	140,280	119	70,000	-
Iraq	5,194	3,245	2,798	606	13,563	-	10,000	-
Israel and Palestine	-	8/ 13,000	-	7,033	-	7,443	-	20,053
Jordan	-	11,244	-	17,857	-	20,754	-	-
Lebanon	1,547	23,725	-	10,582	-	-	-	-
Syria			1,136	13,215	1,481	21,929	6/ 52	6/ 32,379
Turkey	4	447	27,128	2,063	19,266	509	13,953	0
Total Near East	58,626	144,329	150,327	187,020	186,910	194,798	150,229	427,749
North Borneo	-	26,445	-	23,296	-	17,762	1,187	33,587
Brunei	-	4,563	-	9,661	-	7,149	-	2,708
Sarawak	-	36,330	117	48,526	345	49,654	-	68,500
Burma	2,147,120	-	2,137,641	-	3,219,765	-	3,743,032	-
Ceylon	1,812	810,906	5,100	904,185	32,989	886,916	1,974	848,718
China	2,814	501,306	600,000	-	580,000	-	645,000	215,000
Hong Kong	17,240	284,834	16,660	687,582	10,779	230,141	4,256	542,372
India 9/	860	1,244,174	-	425,600	-	1,494,752	150,000	625,000
Indochina:								
Cambodia	247,261	83	214,336	-	484,542	-	64,800	-
Vietnam			232,030	-	365,897	-	180,425	-
Indonesia	1,458	453,325	-	819,008	-	570,466	-	279,393
Japan	-	388,872	11,859	2,378,957	403	3,157,611	353	2,747,778
Korea	39,526	50,782	-	550,000	-	79,524	0	0
Macao	9,735	56,074	-	28,880	-	-	-	-
Malaya	21,951	810,577	97,140	1,204,517	108,779	708,098	122,610	1,207,492
Pakistan	8/10/73,190	8/10/ 35,410	10/ 132,845	-	308,582	-	481,199	-
Philippine Islands	44,496	237,105	11,762	2	16,315	93,980	-	149,941
Portuguese India	-	22,355	-	22,707	-	-	-	-
Ryukyu Islands	-	4/ 75,728	-	71,870	-	100,000	-	115,000
Taiwan	50,524	25,126	130,939	11,026	79,524	-	419,000	-
Thailand	1,919,197	-	2,945,828	-	2,607,522	-	2,707,531	-
Total Far East	4,577,184	5,137,989	6,536,257	7,286,817	7,315,442	7,591,053	8,526,467	7,353,489
Total Asia	4,635,810	5,282,318	6,686,584	7,473,837	8,002,352	7,785,851	8,676,696	7,781,238

(Continued next page)

RICE (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1946-50, annual 1953-55 (Contd.)

Continent and country	Average 1946-50		1953		1954 1/		1955 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
SOUTH AMERICA:								
Argentina	3,344	95	27,505	0	59,541	0	42,073	-
Bolivia	2	17,569	-	18,754	-	29,146	-	-
Brazil	321,078	-	6,144	20,890	0	0	5,474	0
British Guiana	51,496	-	89,336	-	82,701	- 2/	109,669	-
Chile	25,854	-	7,314	12,389	4,006	-	2	1,500
Colombia	3,718	5,352	41,978	219	422	69,047	441	2,035
Ecuador	125,520	-	72,284	-	42,890	-	46,076	2
French Guiana	-	1,636	-	1,219	-	1,321	-	1,605
Paraguay	227	178	10,000	0	-	-	-	-
Peru	0	15,051	71,870	37	43,598	75	-	66
Surinam	10,152	4/	16,411	0	14,147	-	26,231	-
Uruguay	12,266	113	33,347	0	32,849	0	18,640	0
Venezuela	-	52,419	-	14,650	0	3,786	0	2
Total	553,657	92,413	376,689	68,158	280,154	103,375	253,606	25,210
AFRICA:								
Algeria	275	6,838	37	10,077	237	7,545	5,853	2,378
Belgian Congo - Ruanda-Urundi	9,926	64	2,080	168	614	124 6/	152 6/	40
Kenya	162	6,402	1,517	12,667	150	23,065 2/	65 2/	6,216
Uganda			0	8,076	0	13,496 2/	0 2/	16,448
Tanganyika	4,786	1,320	113	167	25	1,559 2/	2 2/	1,700
Zanzibar	37	3,917	3	17,984	2,256	38,444	-	42,470
British Somaliland	-	2,822	-	2,205	-	-	-	-
Gambia	-	3,562	-	-	-	4,000	-	-
Sierra Leone	88	23	1,425	12	149	10,273	163	47,187
Comoro Archipelago	-	-	-	8,194	-	9,845	-	8,188
Cape Verde Islands	-	1,418	-	1,122	-	1,210	-	1,340
Egypt	548,238	63	1,470	88	107,020	109	409,359	165
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	547	2,320	3,208	1,956	1,108	1,292	119	2,064
French Cameroun	-	3,015	45	11,129	340	3,298	1,184	10,701
French Equatorial Africa	-	3,912	-	2,806	-	2,183	-	2,297
French Morocco	12	4,814	11,354	1,294	28,525	242	26,455	220
French Somaliland	-	1,537	-	3,307	-	-	-	-
French Togoland	-	2	-	789	-	2,341	- 2/	5,258
French West Africa	501	75,083	-	161,255	-	151,011	-	246,099
Gold Coast	-	5,589	-	5,039	-	5,996	-	9,773
Liberia	-	3,199	1	4,510	1	25,974	2	19,590

Libya: Tripolitania	-	4,012	-	4,189	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	3,688	6,006	99,203	3	32,815	9,429	98,479	399
Mauritius	375	65,265	-	129,107	-	83,751	-	-
Mozambique	3,081	14	14,370	0	9,803	1	-	-
Nigeria	251	27	421	48	112	856	193	1,425
Angola	10,088	47	4,114	32	1,556	141	2/ 1,358	-
Portuguese Guinea	3,592	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	3,974	-	3,940	-	3,688	-	4,213
Reunion	-	33,668	-	61,028	-	39,182	-	69,482
Seychelles Islands	-	2,426	-	1,904	-	-	-	-
Somalia	-	200	-	2,646	-	-	-	-
Spanish Guinea	-	4,982	-	10,141	-	-	-	-
Spanish Morocco	-	4,785	-	1,984	-	-	-	-
Sudan	181	8,876	-	3,086	-	6,821	-	2/ 12,236
Tunisia	12	1,420	-	1,951	1	2,791	6/ 67	6/ 2,008
Union of South Africa	707	27,230	905	2,840	-	51,339	-	6/ 44,848
Total	586,747	297,172	144,094	481,405	188,408	521,106	562,201	682,845
OCEANIA:								
Australia	3/ 61,257	3/ 146	3/ 79,425	-	70,644	-	95,959	-
New Guinea	-	12,302	-	16,937	-	17,000	-	18,000
British Solomon Islands	-	2,008	-	2,866	-	3,930	-	4,680
Fiji	-	675	-	1,008	-	1,885	-	710
French Oceania	-	1,996	-	2,654	-	2,557	-	2,895
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	-	705	-	1,764	-	1,400	-	1,400
New Caledonia	-	4,739	-	5,022	-	4,918	-	-
New Hebrides	-	2,249	-	2,899	-	3,408	-	3,400
New Zealand	69	3,803	3	6,142	16	4,927	-	5,300
Pacific Islands (U.S. Trust)	-	2,297	-	1,984	-	2,078	-	2,255
Western Samoa	-	669	-	594	-	620	-	980
Papua 3/	-	5,613	2	7,130	-	6,030	-	12,000
Total	61,326	39,277	79,430	51,143	70,660	50,432	95,959	58,371
World total	7,073,755	6,930,874	9,907,948	9,642,412	10,451,303	10,079,697	11,322,419	10,752,598

1/ Preliminary. 2/ January-November. 3/ July-June. 4/ Less than 500 pounds. 5/ October-September. 6/ January-September. 7/ March 21-March 20. 8/ Less than 5-year average. 9/ Pakistan included in India to August 15, 1947. 10/ May-April.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments and reports of United States Foreign Service officers. Includes milled, broken, semimilled unconverted and rough rice in terms of milled. Exports include reexports.

AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF SOLUBLE COFFEE

Central Americans are taking an increasing interest in the manufacture of soluble coffee. Within the past year a plant was built in El Salvador, which is now processing and exporting soluble coffee in addition to supplying its domestic market.

A similar development is possible in Costa Rica. According to a recent despatch, a preliminary survey by the Direccion General de Economia, a subordinate body in the Ministry of Economy and Finance, comments favorably on the possible establishment in Costa Rica of a plant for the production of soluble coffee. The survey points out that, while certain basic materials (and presumably equipment) would have to be purchased abroad, a great advantage could be derived from such an industry in that the lower grades of coffee can be utilized to produce an end product similar in quality to that obtained from superior coffees. The survey asserts that the production of soluble coffee must be profitable as witnessed by the fact that a coffee-importing country like the United States is producing and exporting soluble coffee.

CHILE AUTHORIZES MUTTON FOR EXPORT

The Ministry of Agriculture in Chile has issued a resolution authorizing the export of 700 metric tons of frozen mutton and 300 metric tons of frozen variety meats from Magallanes. Reduced supplies of mutton in Chile resulted in a prohibition of mutton exports for the year 1955 (See Foreign Crops and Markets, May 16, 1955).

The province of Magallanes produces much of the mutton used in the country as a whole, and traditionally has a surplus for export. The United Kingdom is usually the largest market for frozen mutton from Chile.

ARGENTINA SETS LOWER EXCHANGE RATE FOR IMPORTED BULLS

According to an announcement of the Central Bank of June 5, Argentine importers may bring in purebred bulls at a rate of 18 pesos to the dollar instead of the previous free market rate of about 35 pesos to the dollar. The Central Bank will consider exchange permits for such importations after having received "Necessity certificates" from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

AUSTRALIANS DEVELOPED MECHANICAL WOOL SHEARING TABLES

Queensland, Australian graziers have developed and recently offered on the market two mechanical wool shearing tables. The Borthwick, (developed by John Borthwick of Quilpie, Queensland) is manufactured by the Sunbeam Corporation and marketed by Cooper. The Frecklington (developed by E. C. Frecklington of Roma, Queensland) is manufactured and sold by Lister.

The tables have attached adjustable leg clamps and rotate. It is possible by the use of this equipment to shear sheep in an upright position. It can be used with standard shearing machines. The unit can be operated singly or combined with more units into a merry-go-round chain or production shearing system.

Cost of an individual unit is quoted at an amount equivalent to $186 and the cost of a chain system with four tables is estimated at $1,120.

PANAMA INCREASES IMPORTS OF BREEDING CATTLE

There is considerable interest in cattle improvement in Panama, and the country has developed markets for a small quantity of exports. Panama imported 417 head of cattle for breeding in 1955, compared with 95 head a year earlier. The imports in 1955 included 338 head of Brahman and Brahman crossbreds and 60 fighting bulls. The remaining small number consisted of Holsteins and Brown Swiss.

The National Production Institute imports breeding animals for private cattle producers. It also buys herd bulls raised in Panama and resells them on favorable terms to small producers. Imports of cattle are controlled by this agency.

The National Production Institute facilitates the export of cattle from Panama when it has been determined by the Office of Price Regulation that "cattle numbers exceed needs for domestic consumption." During 1955, 5,500 head of cattle were exported to Colombia, Venezuela and Curacao.

URUGUAYAN MEAT PACKING HOUSES CLOSED BY STRIKE

A prolonged strike of packing house workers in Uruguay has prevented the filling of beef export quotas. Workers stopped operations at all major plants in Montevideo on May 10, and the strike was still in operation the latter part of June.

The Army has been using the slaughtering facilities at the government-sponsored Frigorifico Nacional to supply the meat requirements for the city of Montevideo. The Army also chartered a vessel and began loading a shipment of beef for Germany. Port workers, however, refused to continue loading the vessel and threatened a general port strike if the Army continued its loading. Because of the strike the export business is practically at a standstill. Shortage of cattle for slaughter limited last year's export trade. Earlier indications this year were that slaughter supplies would be much larger and meat exports would increase significantly.

U. K. EXPORTS OF BREEDING STOCK IN 1955

United Kingdoms exports of livestock for breeding last year included 1,238 cattle, 554 hogs and 242 sheep. By comparison exports of breeding cattle from the United States during 1955 totaled 24,483 head.

Exports of breeding cattle from the United Kingdom during 1955 were shipped to 31 countries but Argentina was the largest single destination receiving 283 head. Canada was the second largest purchaser of 189 head. The largest shipments by breed and the number shipped were Beef Shorthorns (395), Aberdeen-Angus (272), Herefords (185), Jerseys (107) and Ayrshires (104). During early 1956, 23 head of Ayrshires were shipped to Canada and smaller shipments to Kenya and New Zealand.

Exports of hogs from the United Kingdom in 1955 were reported to be 554 head. The hogs were shipped to 25 countries with Italy and Yugoslavia the largest buyers. The largest number shipped were of the Large White, Large Black and Wessex Saddleback breeds.

Sheep shipments totaled 242 head of which 169 head were Hampshires.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 15 TOTAL 65,000 BALES

Australian wool sales for the week ending June 15, 1956, totalled 65,000 bales. Sales were held in Melbourne and Geelong, and prices were one or two cents above the previous week's Sales and two to five cents above sales of a year earlier.

The total quantities of wool received into store through May 31, 1956 totaled 4,157,208 bales (including the 56,523 bales carry-over from the 1954-55 wool clip). The total supply for the 1955-56 season has been estimated at 4,275,523 bales. Disposals through May 31 totaled 3,902,233 bales. Reports indicate that about 200,000 bales were sold in June. This indicates that the carry-over on July 1, 1956 totaled about 173,000 bales or some 52 million pounds, greasy basis.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification.

(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended		
	6-8-56	6-15-56	Year ago 6-17-55
	U.S. DOLLARS PER POUND		
Combing Wools			
70's Good	1.46	1.47	1.45
Average	1.41	1.42	1.39
64's Good	1.37	1.38	1.31
Average	1.31	1.32	1.27
60's Good	1.23	1.24	1.21
Average	1.17	1.18	1.17
58's Good	1.09	1.11	1.13
Average	1.03	1.04	-
56's Good	.93	.95	1.04
Average	.90	.91	-
50's Good	.82	.82	.91
Average	.80	.80	-
Carding Wools			
Merino	.83	.86	.79
Comeback	.75	.76	.75
Fine Crossbred	.69	.69	.74
Medium Crossbred	.67	.67	.74

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau.

CHILE IMPORTS HOGS FROM UNITED STATES

A shipment of 141 hogs from Iowa has arrived in Chile, and 100 head from Mississippi are expected to arrive soon. The shipments, arriving by air, included Durocs, Poland Chinas, and Landraces. Some Berkshires will be included in the next importation. Plans apparently are underway to purchase an additional 100 head of hogs probably in October.

There is considerable interest in livestock improvement in Chile. Top steer prices in June were equivalent to around 30 cents per pound, and slaughter hog prices were equivalent to 35 cents per pound. According to recent estimates, Chile has less than a million hogs and around 2.5 million cattle. The country does not produce enough beef and pork to meet its requirements.

U.S.S.R. BUYS PACKING HOUSE AND TANNING PRODUCTS FROM ARGENTINA

In late June, there were 4 boats loaded with Argentine beef and mutton for shipment to Russia. Total purchases are reported at 8,969 metric tons.

Since May 7 Argentina's exports to Russia have included 281,720 hides, 500 tons of meat meal, 1,000 tons of Quebracho (tanning) extract, and 6 tons of hog bristles. The shipments were handled by a private firm in Argentina, and IAPI is no longer engaged in the meat trade.

It is reported that the U.S.S.R. has bought 1,000 tons of beef in Montevideo, Uruguay, but is not in a position to make shipment on account of the strike of packing house workers and labor difficulties at the docks.

DENMARK'S BUTTER EXPORTS TO U.K. UP

During the first five months of 1956, Denmark's exports of butter to the United Kingdom were approximately 26 percent greater than in the same period of 1955, although total exports fell off slightly. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 84.4 million pounds (67.0 million pounds in comparable 1955). Total butter exports were 104.5 million pounds (106.6 million pounds a year ago). Some increase was noted in the trade with France and Eastern Germany, but that with other countries declined.

Exports of cheese to the United Kingdom were 9.2 million pounds, an increase of 7 percent over the earlier year. Over-all cheese exports in the first five months this year were 46.0 million pounds, compared with 43.8 million pounds last year. This increase of 5 percent was largely attributable to an expansion in trade with Western Germany.

POWDERED MILK PLANT BEGINS OPERATION IN COSTA RICA

A powdered milk plant in San Jose, Costa Rica, recently started operations. The Costa Rican Government financed the land and building, and UNICEF provided the funds necessary for equipment. The Cooperation de Productores de Leche will operate the plant. Initial plans call for a reported production of 400,000 pounds of dry skim milk annually for distribution through a school lunch program. Future plans envisage the production of dry whole milk as well as the skimmed product.

The Government of Costa Rica hopes that this plant will be the first of several. Seasonal surpluses have hindered milk production. Dairymen claim that during the flush season, prices of fluid milk, butter, and cheese are not high enough to meet the costs of production. The Government hopes that the plant will absorb surplus production and that its operation will serve as a stimulant toward increased domestic production.

During the past few years, Costa Rica has imported approximately 2 million pounds of powdered milk annually.

VENEZUELAN MILK PRODUCERS ORGANIZE AS COOPERATIVE

At a recent meeting, "Asoprole", the association of the central milk producers in Venezuela, agreed to dissolve and to reorganize as a cooperative. As soon as the cooperative, "Sociedad Cooperativa de Fomento de Leche y Credito Pecuario," is officially recognized by the Government, it will be in a position to take title to the property of "Asoprole."

The new directors also voted to use as capital the stock held by the association in the Silsa pasteurization plant. Additional funds will be obtained from the check-off on milk receipts and a capital levy of about $30 on each of the 500 or more producer members. By the time the cooperative is recognized and functioning, it is expected that it will have capital of $1 million.

It is expected that the cooperative, which will have the authority to contract credits for expansion of milk production and distribution, will attempt to purchase "Silsa," the largest pasteurizing plant in the country, from the Venezuelan Development Corporation.

DECLINE IN OVER-ALL IMPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS INTO THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA

The over-all volume of imports of dairy products into the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1955 dropped approximately 3 percent below the 1954 level. Butter imports amounted to 4.0 million pounds, compared with 5.2 million pounds a year ago, a drop of 23 percent. New Zealand, the principal supplier in 1954 with 3.0 million pounds, shipped 1.1 million pounds in 1955, while the Union of South Africa became the major source of butter in 1955 with 2.1 million pounds, as against 1.5 million pounds in 1954.

Trade in cheese in 1955 was only 419,000 pounds, compared with 1,176,000 pounds a year earlier. The Union of South Africa was the chief supplier in both years, but shipped only 141,000 pounds in 1955, compared with 669,000 pounds in 1954. The greatest decline was reported by New Zealand, which exported 260,000 pounds of cheese to the Federation in 1954, dropping to 3,000 pounds last year. Trade with Australia decreased from 88,000 pounds to 64,000 pounds, while shipments from the Netherlands declined from 20,000 pounds to 14,000 pounds last year. Somewhat larger exports were reported by Denmark, which shipped 95,000 pounds of cheese to the Federation in 1955, compared with 54,000 pounds in 1954. Norway, Italy, and Switzerland were among other supplying countries making slightly larger shipments of cheese to the Federation during 1955.

Imports of canned milk increased substantially in 1955 to 5.6 million pounds from 4.0 million pounds in the earlier year. The Netherlands was again the major supplier, with 3.1 million pounds (1.0 million pounds in 1954). The United Kingdom which had exported 58,000 pounds in 1954 shipped 878,000 pounds of canned milk to the Federation in 1955. Trade with the Union of South Africa was down to 1.0 million pounds from 1.2 million pounds in 1954. Shipments from Australia dropped sharply to 351,000 pounds from 1.4 million pounds in 1954.

Dried milk imports during 1955 were 97 percent of the earlier year. The largest supplies came from Australia,--1.1 million pounds in 1955, 1.0 million pounds in 1954. Shipments from the Union of South Africa were somewhat heavier, amounting to 343,000 pounds, compared with 225,000 pounds in the earlier year. Exports from the Netherlands showed a slight gain to 258,000 pounds from 214,000 pounds in 1954. The United States, which shipped only 1,000 pounds of dried milk to the Federation in 1954, exported 13,000 pounds in 1955. Federation trade with most of the other supplying countries declined in 1955.

TUNISIA'S DAIRY IMPORTS UP DURING 1955

Tunisia's imports of dairy products increased 8 percent on a value basis during 1955 and totaled $3.8 million. Canned milk was the major dairy import and totaled 6.9 million pounds in 1955 compared to 6.0 million pounds the previous year. Cheese imports during 1955 were 3.9 million pounds, 15 percent higher than 1954. Butter imports totalled 2.2 million pounds, 7 percent higher than 1954.

Canned milk and butter import prices showed a decline. Imports of canned milk averaged 19.2 cents per pound during 1954, but only 17.3 cents per pound during 1955. The average import price of butter declined from 51.3 to 49.7 cents per pound. Cheese was imported at a slightly higher price; 40.8 cents per pound in 1955 compared to 40.5 cents per pound in 1954.

The Netherlands was the principle supplier of these products. The only dairy import from the United States in recent years has been about 30,000 pounds of non-fat dry milk solids annually. The United States position is attributed to Tunisia's limited dollar buying power.

GOLD COAST DAIRY IMPORTS SHOW INCREASE IN 1955

The Gold Coast remained one of Africa's leading canned milk markets in 1955, but was a small importer of other dairy products. Imports of evaporated milk increased 3 percent and condensed milk imports increased 8 percent over the previous year and totaled 7.6 and 1.9 million pounds respectively. The Netherlands was the chief source of both types of canned milk and claimed over 80 percent of the market.

Butter imports totaled about 0.5 million pounds during 1955, one-fifth more than the 1954 figure, and were supplied principally by Australia and Denmark. Cheese imports showed a slight decline and stood at 340,000 pounds for 1955. Imports of dried milk products (whole, skim, and malted) increased 35 percent over the previous year and totaled 1.4 million pounds. The United States exported only token amounts of these products to the Gold Coast in 1954 but found a market for 108,000 pounds of dried skim milk there in 1955.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA REPORTS 1955 AS GOOD YEAR FOR DAIRYING

The Dairy Industry Control Board of South West Africa reports that 1955, although not quite so prosperous a year as 1954, was in all respects very satisfactory. The production of butter, the principal dairy product of South West Africa, a Trust Territory of the Union of South Africa, totaled more than 10.2 million pounds for the year ending September 30, 1955, compared with a production figure of 11.0 million in 1954.

The fact that rainfall was only normal during the past year was given as the reason for the decline in production. Peak production in 1954 was attributed in large part to the fact that rainfall was 200 percent of normal. In 1955, milk production reached an early peak in March and then dropped steadily; in 1954, the peak was reached later and maintained longer.

The price of cream was maintained at a high level during 1955, and a total of $3.5 million was paid to farmers during the year for cream going to butter manufacture, while suppliers of milk for industrial purposes realized $0.2 million. The value of the butter produced during the year was estimated by the Board at $4.7 million. Cheese production, on the other hand, was down, and the estimated value of production was less than $0.2 million. Low rainfall in the Outjo district, one of the largest cheesemaking areas, was partially responsible for the drop in cheese production. High manufacturing costs for cheese were also a factor.

Much of the skim milk is consumed on farms in South West Africa and production of milk byproducts was small. Dried buttermilk returned less than $36,000, while casein production realized just under $125,000 for the year.

The Board announced that its object is to increase the income of the dairy industry through making better use of skim milk by manufacturing more and better quality casein and nonfat dry milk.

The current situation in dairying is extremely good. Summer rains have been plentiful and generally there has been a rather steep rise in milk production. Manufacture of butter is reported considerably ahead of the 1955 output.

1955-56 WORLD CITRUS PRODUCTION AT HIGH LEVEL

Despite a loss of almost 20 million boxes of oranges in Spain, world production reached a new record of 350 million boxes. New plantings in all major-producing areas are continuing at a rate well in excess of replacement needs. The upward trend in world production should continue for many years as new trees start bearing and the young trees increase in size.

Plantings in the Mediterranean Area and in South Africa have increased at a rapid rate, while citrus production in the United States is leveling off, with a probable slight increase in production. It is too early to determine the full extent of the tree injury in Spain. Most observers believe that it will require several years for the trees to recover from the frost damage. They expect the 1956-57 Spanish crop to be about one-third of production in recent years.

The demand for oranges has increased at a sufficient rate to absorb the increased production at profitable prices.

In the United States, where about 40 percent of the world oranges are produced, more than half of them are processed, mostly into frozen concentrate. Processing is relatively small in other countries.

Production of grapefruit and limes is slightly above that of last year, while there was a slight decrease in lemon production. The United States and Italy produce about three-fourths of the lemon crop. In recent years, however, there has been a sharp upward trend in Greece, Turkey, and Chile. If this trend continues, it is likely that exports from these countries will increase.

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

Area	ORANGES, INCLUDING TANGERINES					
	Average		1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - - - 1,000 boxes - - - - -					
NORTH AMERICA						
Mexico	4,761	11,296	16,814	17,545	18,838	17,637
United States	67,034	109,997	125,080	130,870	135,445	135,015
Puerto Rico	807	847	505	783	*800	*800
Cuba	1,050	1,200	1,750	1,900	1,650	1,900
Dominican Republic	401	487	469	459	602	500
Jamaica	435	727	781	660	450	540
Trinidad and Tobago	55	115	226	110	275	*200
Total	74,543	124,669	145,625	152,327	158,060	156,592
MEDITERRANEAN AREA						
Greece	1,470	1,870	3,789	4,190	4,771	4,463
Italy	11,701	12,239	20,178	21,636	20,944	22,990
Spain	24,167	23,811	43,157	44,124	37,793	3/30,550
Cyprus	441	479	591	986	807	968
Iran	504	1,616	1,417	1,417	1,102	*1,200
Lebanon	4/1,093	1,269	2,107	2,214	2,142	2,394
Israel	5/8,652	8,300	6,373	9,549	7,796	9,419
Syria	6/	78	100	71	77	68
Turkey	1,119	1,256	1,953	2,830	3,584	4,374
Algeria	3,168	4,973	7,741	10,284	10,484	11,653
Egypt	6,373	6,686	9,668	9,398	8,540	9,700
French Morocco	927	3,124	6,693	5,442	6,280	*7,000
Tunisia	239	631	764	1,411	1,055	1,433
Total	59,854	66,332	104,531	113,552	105,375	106,212
FAR EAST						
Japan	15,895	8,396	19,055	13,205	21,632	18,097
Taiwan	897	963	882	913	976	*1,039
Total	16,792	9,359	19,937	14,118	22,608	19,136
SUB-TOTAL No. Hemisphere	151,189	200,360	270,093	279,997	286,043	281,940

(Continued on next page)

NOTE: The July 10 crop report revises the 1955 production estimates for the U. S. to the following: Oranges - 136,335,000 boxes, grapefruit - 45,400,000 boxes, and lemons - 13,000,000 boxes.

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

Area	ORANGES, INCLUDING TANGERINES (Continued)					
	Average		1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - - - 1,000 boxes - - - - -					
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	9,212	10,800	11,800	14,100	13,800	15,400
Brazil	34,466	33,153	35,099	31,921	32,447	34,500
Chile	250	696	1,102	472	945	1,260
Ecuador	582	299	175	209	*200	*200
Peru	1,000	1,200	1,965	2,710	3,000	*3,000
Uruguay	1,300	2,110	1,276	1,606	1,260	1,285
Total	46,810	48,258	51,417	51,018	51,652	55,645
OTHER SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE						
Union of South Africa	4,160	5,158	6,944	7,872	8,325	9,700
Australia	2,735	3,394	3,867	3,647	3,362	3,150
New Zealand	23	9	15	12	14	12
SUB-TOTAL So. Hemisphere	53,728	56,819	62,243	62,549	63,353	68,507
WORLD TOTAL	204,917	257,179	332,336	342,546	349,396	350,447

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

Area	LIMES (Acid)					
	Average		1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - - - 1,000 boxes - - - - -					
Mexico	652	1,682	2,044	2,142	2,228	2,260
United States	63	200	320	370	380	400
Egypt	1,194	950	1,102	928	915	987
WORLD TOTAL 8/	2,250	3,380	4,000	4,000	4,500	4,500

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

Area	GRAPEFRUIT					
	Average		1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 boxes					
NORTH AMERICA						
United States	31,787	53,326	38,360	48,370	42,170	46,000
Puerto Rico	448	500	525	525	*500	*450
Cuba	375	138	200	240	190	200
Jamaica	213	336	430	439	425	490
Trinidad and Tobago	174	390	700	396	660	*550
British Honduras	7/	7/	335	200	315	*250
Total	32,997	54,690	40,550	50,170	44,260	47,940
MEDITERRANEAN AREA						
Cyprus	44	121	199	204	229	298
Israel	5/1,445	892	1,456	1,539	1,524	1,464
Algeria	9	26	51	85	85	*100
French Morocco	10	46	132	193	91	*140
Total	1,508	1,085	1,838	2,021	1,929	2,002
SUB-TOTAL No. Hemisphere	34,505	55,775	42,388	52,191	46,189	49,942
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	48	145	289	314	314	346
OTHER SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE						
Union of South Africa	336	470	420	420	441	512
Australia	3	126	142	153	134	165
New Zealand	15	56	81	83	72	79
SUB-TOTAL So. Hemisphere	402	797	932	970	961	1,102
WORLD TOTAL	34,907	56,572	43,320	53,161	47,150	51,044

1/ Northern Hemisphere: Harvest begins in November of the year shown.
Southern Hemisphere: Harvest begins in May following the year shown.
Production in foreign countries converted to boxes of the following weights: Oranges 70 pounds; grapefruit and limes 80 pounds; lemons 76 pounds.

2/ Preliminary. Asterisk denotes an assumed production in countries where official estimates are not available.

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

Area	LEMONS					
	Average		1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - - - 1,000 boxes - - - - -					
NORTH AMERICA						
United States	9,552	12,498	12,590	16,130	14,000	13,400
MEDITERRANEAN AREA						
Greece	446	633	1,085	1,209	1,207	1,128
Italy	9,637	7,517	8,399	9,038	9,222	8,296
Spain	1,445	1,108	1,874	1,416	1,015	1,305
Cyprus	52	72	169	167	153	*170
Lebanon	464	476	435	450	435	*450
Israel	5/ 88	288	220	295	336	374
Turkey	74	260	667	470	657	1,004
Algeria	102	131	247	290	290	*320
Egypt	81	112	116	131	118	120
French Morocco	18	61	142	133	183	*200
Tunisia	50	154	225	273	261	281
Total	12,457	10,812	13,579	13,872	13,877	13,648
SUB-TOTAL No. Hemisphere	22,009	23,310	26,169	30,002	27,877	27,048
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	371	1,340	1,535	2,086	1,504	647
Chile	250	610	812	435	812	1,015
Uruguay	150	202	167	174	174	177
Total	771	2,152	2,514	2,695	2,490	1,839
OTHER SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE						
Union of South Africa	59	112	118	147	158	183
Australia	302	427	401	394	334	387
New Zealand	65	69	59	53	50	52
SUB-TOTAL So. Hemisphere	1,197	2,760	3,092	3,289	3,032	2,461
WORLD TOTAL	23,206	26,070	29,261	33,291	30,909	29,509

3/ Does not include 19,800,000 boxes of fruit frozen on trees in February 1956. Of this quantity, 6,300,000 boxes were salvaged in domestic consumption and 13,500,000 boxes were either left on trees or salvaged for livestock feed.

4/ Includes Syria.

5/ Produced in Palestine.

6/ Included in Lebanon.

7/ Not available.

8/ Includes small quantities in other countries not separately reported.

SYRIAN DRIED FRUIT PROSPECTS UP FOR FIGS BUT DOWN FOR APRICOTS

As a result of the damage caused by April cold spells, the 1956 fresh apricot crop in Syria is estimated at only 12,000 short tons. 1955 production was estimated at 15,400 tons. Dried apricot production is expected to amount to only 170 tons this year, compared with 200 tons last year and an average of 500 tons. Output of paste this year may total about 1,100 tons. Current wholesale prices per pound in the Damascus market are: fresh apricots, best grade 10 cents, 1955-crop dried apricots 48 cents, apricot paste 18 cents. The wholesale prices of fresh apricots are about 35 percent higher than in 1955, while it is anticipated that prices for dried apricots and paste will be substantially higher than last season.

The weather has been favorable to the fig crop and prospects are good. Only a heat wave in July could reduce the fresh fig crop. Preliminary estimates by the trade indicate a fresh fig crop of 22,000 short tons and a dried fig pack of 2,200 tons, both equivalent to double last year's crop but the same as in 1954. The export demand for dried figs for the European market is expected by the trade to continue as strong as in 1954 and 1955.

FRENCH PRUNE CROP DOWN

More recent information from France indicates that the prune crop has suffered seriously from the late winter freeze. The 1956 production of prunes, fresh basis, is now forecast at only 20,000 short tons, or one-third less than the 30,000 tons harvested in 1955.

In the 5 years, 1949 through 1953, an average of 8,700 tons of dried prunes were produced from an average of 25,600 tons fresh prunes, from which an average drying ratio of 2.95 to 1 can be calculated. This ratio, however, has fluctuated so widely from year to year that it is of limited usefulness in attempting to estimate 1956 dried prune production. French dried-prune production in 1955 was estimated at 7,700 tons, inclusive of 900 tons of substandard quality.

COLD WAVE PRACTICALLY ELIMINATES ITALIAN PISTACHIO CROP

Trade reports from Italy indicate that there will be practically no pistachio harvest this year due to the February and March cold waves. The 1955 harvest reportedly totaled about 800 short tons, and was considered an unusually good one.

Some edge was taken off the prosperity of the 1955/56 season by a sharp price decline. End of season sales were being made on the basis of 51 cents per pound unshelled, or $1.23, shelled, f.o.b., Sicilian ports, but with weak demand. Ten months earlier shelled pistachios were bringing $1.89 per pound. The cause for the sharp price reduction is attributed to competition from Syria and Iran.

EGYPT'S COTTONSEED OIL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS EXPECTED TO BE LARGE

Egypt's main domestic source of vegetable oil is its cotton crop. However, the relatively small production of other oilseed crops and the increasing demand for vegetable oils generally require that Egypt supplement this supply with imports. These imports normally are in the form of cottonseed from the Sudan.

The Ministry of Supply has estimated Egypt's import requirements this year, September 1955 - August 1956, at about 22,000 short tons, consisting of 12,000 tons of cottonseed oil and about 10,000 tons of oil in the form of seed.

The exceptional size of this need has come about because of increased consumer demand which last year reduced stocks to the lowest possible level. Consumers were allowed only 11 months rations during the 12-month period. The increased supply this year will be used primarily for increased human consumption but also for increased industrial consumption plus a slight increase in closing stocks. However, stocks will still be below the level which the Ministry of Supply considers a safe working level.

Table 1 - EGYPT: Cottonseed oil supply and distribution, 1954-55 and 1955-56 (Sept.-Aug.)

(Short tons)

	1954-55	1955-56
Opening stocks, September 1	16,955	7,425
Production 1/	91,765	97,270
Imports	30	12,125
Total supply	108,750	116,820
Exports	3,985	4,410
Industrial consumption 2/	19,215	20,940
Edible consumption	78,125	80,470
Ending stocks	7,425	11,000
Total distribution	108,750	116,820

1/ Includes stearine, which is a by-product of cottonseed oil, used mainly in industry. 2/ Includes oil used to manufacture shortening, which is roughly estimated at 8,800 to 9,400 tons.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Table 2 - EGYPT: Cottonseed supply and distribution
1954-55 and 1955-56 (Sept.-Aug.)

(Short tons)

	1954-55	1955-56
Opening stocks, September 1	8,535	8,055
Production	741,615	711,950
Imports	20,405	70,550
Total supply	770,555	790,555
Exports	-	-
Crushings	605,075	629,620
Seed and waste	157,425	153,220
Ending stocks, August 31	8,055	7,715
Total distribution	770,555	790,555

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Production of cottonseed oil in 1955-56 is expected to total 97,270 tons including 9,875 tons obtained from crushing 70,550 tons of imported seed. The 70,550 tons consists of 48,500 tons purchased from the Sudan and another 22,000 tons which Egypt hopes to procure, also from the Sudan. If the additional 22,000 tons cannot be purchased, an equivalent quantity of cottonseed oil will be imported from some other source.

Oilseed crops, other than cottonseed, grown in Egypt are sesame, peanuts and flaxseed, but oil production from these crops is of relatively minor importance.

The area devoted to the four oilseed-bearing crops in Egypt in 1955 totaled 1,983,000 acres, an increase of 15 percent from 1954. Seed production at 768,000 tons, however, declined about 3 percent. This was due to the relatively poor yield of the cotton crop. Nonetheless, 93 percent of the country's production of all oilseeds in 1955 was cottonseed. Flaxseed production increased 50 percent, sesame seed 14 percent and peanuts 16 percent from the year before.

The 1956-57 cotton acreage is expected to be 1.8 million acres or about 4 percent smaller than in 1955-56. However, if this year's yield is near average, the 1956-57 cottonseed harvest may be around 10 percent larger than in 1955-56 and oil production may be around 100,000 tons. Last year's yield was low due to cotton leaf worm damage. Acreage to flaxseed, sesame seed and peanuts is expected to maintain or increase slightly the 1955 level.

Table 3 - EGYPT: Oilseed acreage and production, average 1950-54, annual 1954 and 1955

	Cottonseed	Sesame seed	Peanuts	Flaxseed
		Acreage		
		1,000 acres		
Average 1950-54	1,830	40	30	9
Annual 1954	1,640	45	33	10
Annual 1955	1,885	47	35	16
		Production		
		1,000 short tons		
Average 1950-54	775	14	23	1/ 4
Annual 1954	740	17	27	1/ 4
Annual 1955	712	19	31	1/ 6

1/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1950-54--127; 1954--155; 1955--231.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Egypt imported 4,969 tons of edible oils and 1,100 tons of inedible oils during calendar year 1955. Major items were 4,056 tons of coconut oil (principally from Ceylon and Malaya) and 1,159 tons of olive oil (largely from Algeria and Greece). In addition 35,151 tons of various oilseeds were imported--all from the Sudan. The largest item was 26,778 tons of cottonseed.

Exports in 1955 consisted of 5,600 tons of vegetable oils (5,313 tons of cottonseed oil of which 3,752 tons went to Russia) and 13,143 tons of oilseeds (10,828 of peanuts largely to Europe, and 2,315 tons of sesame seed largely to Lebanon).

ARGENTINA SELLS SUNFLOWER SEED OIL TO PARAGUAY

The National Grain and Elevators Institute (INGE) of Argentina sold 500 metric tons (550 short tons) of semi-refined sunflower seed oil for export to Paraguay, according to information just received in the Foreign Agricultural Service. The price was reported at U. S. $350 per metric ton bulk f.o.b., (Paraguayan clearing) for immediate shipment.

DENMARK LIKELY TO IMPORT MORE VEGETABLE OILS, LESS OILSEEDS IN 1956

Although Denmark's overall 1956 trade in oilseeds and fats and oils is expected to remain at about the same level as last year, more raw oils may be imported at the expense of oilseeds. Requirements are not changing materially, but Danish oil mills are finding it difficult to market domestically produced oils due to the stiff competition from imported oils.

The acreage of oilseeds for harvest in 1956 is roughly 24,700 acres, down slightly from 1955. This decrease is primarily due to smaller plantings of winter rape whose acreage, totaling 4,900 acres, is only about two-thirds of the acreage in 1955.

Danish imports of soybeans--which came entirely from the United States in 1955--are likely to show a different picture in 1956. The first cargo of Manchurian soybeans, approximately 5,500 short tons, was unloaded in Copenhagen in the middle of April. If available, additional imports of the Manchurian beans undoubtedly will find their way to Denmark.

Table 1 - DENMARK: Imports of oilseeds and oil-bearing materials, by kind, annual 1953-1955

(Short tons)

Item	1953	1954	1955
Copra	55,693	58,896	58,024
Cottonseed	3,229	12,142	-
Flaxseed	4,207	2,719	3,700
Palm kernels	17,770	29,460	11,645
Sesame seed	5,273	6,177	3,730
Soybeans	60,492	63,014	91,591
Others	10,204	9,685	8,468
Total	156,868	182,093	177,158

Compiled from official sources.

Imports of most oilseeds, except soybeans, were lower in 1955 than in the previous year (Table 1). As was mentioned previously, all of the soybeans came from the United States. (Danish oil mill officials point out that this was primarily due to the fact that Manchurian beans were not offered for sale and that this development does not necessarily mean that Denmark will not buy Manchurian beans in the years ahead). Copra imports, down only slightly, originated primarily in the Philippines. Imports of palm kernels, though still ranking third among Danish oilseed imports, decreased drastically in 1955. The principal suppliers, as usual, were British West Africa and the Belgian Congo.

In addition to the drop in oilseed imports, domestic production was down as a result of an acreage cut, mainly in rapeseed and flaxseed, to almost half the 1954 area. Because of above-average yields, however, output dropped only about 30 percent. Practically all of this oilseed was used for domestic crushing.

Table 2 - DENMARK: Imports of vegetable and marine oils, by kind, annual 1953-1955

(Short tons)

Item	1953	1954	1955
Vegetable oils:			
Castor oil	292	354	473
Cottonseed oil	-	1,079	88
Linseed oil	3,155	11,200	7,129
Palm oil	218	1,454	11,965
Peanut oil	84	521	907
Rapeseed oil	22	1,515	44
Sesame oil	-	-	1,113
Tung oil	593	769	714
Others	647	650	746
Total	5,011	17,542	23,179
Marine oil:			
Whale oil	11,539	14,970	17,750
Other	4,591	6,947	3,792
Total	16,130	21,917	21,542

Compiled from official sources.

The smaller supplies of oilseeds in 1955 were more than offset by increased imports of vegetable oils and increased manufacture of marine oils. Total imports of vegetable oils in 1955 increased almost one-third from the previous year (Table 2). Most of this increase came in palm oil which reportedly could be obtained at a price lower than the cost of producing other oils domestically on the basis of imported oilseeds. The principal source of palm oil was the Belgian Congo which supplied 90 percent of Denmark's imports. Another feature of the import pattern was the decrease in linseed oil imports.

The overall domestic production of fats and oils during 1955 totaled about 224,200 short tons or just slightly more than the previous year. A breakdown by major types, however, shows that a drop of about 11 percent in the output of vegetable fats and oils, was compensated by an increase of about the same amount in the manufacture of marine oils. The total production of the latter in 1955 was about 22,375 tons, 94 percent of which was heering oil.

Exports of oilseeds totaled only about 6,100 tons in 1955 of which mustard seed was the major item. The United States, in taking 950 tons, was the second largest buyer of this oilseed. Exports of fats and oils totaled about 31,400 tons, over 10 percent more than in 1954. Marine oils made up close to half of the exports.

Danish imports of oilcakes and meal totaled nearly 596,400 tons in 1955. The two principal import items were cottonseed cake (nearly one-half) and soybean cake (almost one-fifth). The United States supplied 17 percent of the cottonseed cake and 23 percent of the soybean cake.

UNITED KINGDOM COTTON IMPORTS CONTINUE AT REDUCED LEVELS

Cotton imports of 1,067,000 bales (500 pounds gross) by the United Kingdom during the first 9 months (August-April) of the 1955-56 marketing year continued at reduced levels from last year, declining 11 percent from imports of 1,201,000 bales during August-April 1954-55. Imports from the United States dropped 56 percent from the 461,000 bales imported in August-April 1954-55 to 202,000 bales in the current period. These figures include Mexican cotton transshipped through United States ports.

Quantities imported from other countries during August-April 1955-56, with comparablek1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Sudan 167,000 bales (88,000); Nigeria 109,000 (70,000); Brazil 83,000 (116,000); U.S.S.R. 62,000 (97,000); India 61,000 (14,000); Mexico 58,000 (37,000); Peru 53,000 (36,000); Pakistan 48,000 (40,000); Egypt 44,000 (57,000); Syria 34,000 (37,000); and Iran 20,000 (12,000).

Cotton consumption in the United Kingdom also continued at a much lower scale than last year, amounting to 1,179,000 bales in August-April 1955-56 or 21 percent below the total for the similar period a year ago. Some improvement was noted in the February-April quarter when consumption of 396,000 bales was only 12 percent below last year.

Cotton stocks in the United Kingdom on April 30, 1956, were very low amounting to only 378,000 bales or about 40 percent less than stocks of 639,000 bales held a year earlier.

In the cotton market, uncertainty about future values hampered business, and the results of the June 12 sales of the United States Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) failed to revive buying interest.

BELGIUM'S COTTON STOCKS LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Stocks of cotton held by Belgian cotton mills on April 30, 1956, were down 24 percent from those held a year earlier, amounting to 118,000 bales (500 pounds gross) as compared with 155,000 bales held a year ago. A slight improvement was registered, however, from the 113,000 bales held on January 31, 1956, the lowest recorded for that date since 1953. Continuing low levels of imports, and maintenance of cotton consumption at recent levels accounted for the reduction in stocks.

Cotton imports by Belgium during the first 8 months (August-March) of the 1955-56 marketing year amounted to 276,000 bales or 17 percent less than the 333,000 bales imported during the corresponding period a year ago. Imports from the United States declined even more sharply, dropping 65 percent from the 72,000 bales imported during August-March 1954-55 to only 25,000 bales in the current period. Mexico was the leading supplier in the current period, with the Belgian Congo and India also supplying sizeable quantities. Declines were registered in imports from South American countries in contrast to increased quantities from Pakistan and Nicaragua.

Quantities imported during August-March 1955-56, with comparable figures for 1954-55 in parentheses were: Mexico 76,000 bales (69,000); Belgian Congo 46,000 (56,000); India 35,000 (4,000); United States 25,000 (72,000); Peru 12,000 (16,000); Egypt 12,000 (11,000); Pakistan 11,000 (6,000); Nicaragua 11,000 (3,000); Brazil 11,000 (18,000); U. S. S. R. 9,000 (7,000).

Cotton consumption in Belgium during February-April 1956 amounted to 111,000 bales, the same as in the corresponding period of 1955. Total consumption during August-April 1955-56 amounted to 336,000 bales, or 3 percent lower than the 346,000 bales consumed in August-April 1954-55.

Belgium's cotton yarn production during February-April 1956 decreased 8 percent from the previous quarter, and cotton fabric production decreased 4 percent. Stocks of yarn on April 30, 1956, were slightly higher than a year ago, and stocks of fabrics were a little lower.

The tone of the Ghent cotton market was quiet during June, with demand for raw cotton held only to immediate needs. Prices paid by merchants during March and April 1956, are shown in the table on the following page. In March, USA Orleans/Texas S.M. 1-1/16 inch, shipment March/April was quoted 7.65 cents a pound higher than the same quality from Mexico, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. For distant months, however, U. S. prices compared more favorably.

BELGIUM: Cotton prices for various growths, cif Antwerp/Ghent, agents' commission included, March-April 1956

Source, variety, and date	Approximate corresponding U.S. standard 1/	Shipment from origin	Price in U.S. cents a pound
March 16, 1956:			
U.S.A., California	Good Mid., 1-1/8"	March	44.25
Peru, top Tanguis	GM 1-5/32 to 1-3/16"	May	39.50
U.S.A., California	GM 1-1/8"	August/Sept.	37.00
U.S.A., Orleans/Texas	Strict Mid. 1-1/16"	March/April	43.08
Egypt, Ashmouni	SM cr. 1-3/32"	April	38.10
Syria	GM 1-1/16"	March	37.40
Nigeria, NA 1	GM 1-1/32"	April	37.00
Mexico, old crop	SM sl. spot 1-1/16"	March/April	35.43
Nicaragua	SM 1-1/16"	March/April	35.43
Guatemala	SM 1-1/16"	March/April	35.43
U.S.A., CCC Memphis	SM 1-1/16"	Sept./Oct.	34.48
U.S.A., CCC Orl/Texas	SM 1-1/16"	Aug/Sept.	33.50
Mexico, new crop	SM 1-1/16" Matamoros	Aug/Sept.	32.20
Pakistan, 289F, r.g.	Bar. Mid. 1-1/32"	March/April	33.20
Pakistan, NT, r.g.	Mid. br. sl. sp. 1"	March/April	31.80
U.S.A., CCC surplus	SM 15/16"	March/April	30.15
U.S.A., CCC surplus	Mid. 31/32"	April/May	28.75
April 21, 1956:			
Egypt, Ashmouni	SM cr. 1-3/32"	April/May	55.00
U.S.A., Orl/Texas	SM 1-1/16"	April/May	41.43
Peru, Tanguis	GM 1-5/32 to 1-3/16"	May/June	40.75
Syria	GM 1-1/16"	May	36.45
U.S.A., Orl/Texas	SM 1-1/16"	Sept/Dec.	33.89
U.S.A., California	SM 1-1/16"	Sept/Dec.	33.69
Mexico, Matamoros	SM 1-1/16"	Sept.	32.89
Mexico, Matam/Laguna	SM 1-1/16"	Oct/Dec.	32.64
Sudan	GM 31/32"	April/May	35.40
Pakistan, 289F, r.g.	Bar.Mid.1-1/32"	April/May	34.45
Pakistan, NT, r.g.	Mid. br. sl. sp. 1"	April/May	32.50
India, Dhollera	SLM leaf, Mid. white color 1-3/16"	May	27.45
Brazil, Type ADAM 2/	Mid 15/16"	May/June	30.45
U.S.A., Type HAMA 2/	Mid 15/16"	May	28.50

1/ Quality comparisons in terms of United States standards are the opinions of Belgian trade sources. Such comparisons are usually done independently by cotton firms in various countries, and no individual list is internationally recognized. 2/ Apparently Belgian trade terms.

INDIA SUSPENDS COTTON IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT EGYPT

The Government of India announced, effective June 26, 1956, that no applications would be accepted for the import of any variety of cotton from America or any other dollar or soft-currency-area countries, excepting cotton from Egypt of the Karnak and Menoufi varieties stapling 1-1/16 inches and longer. Licensing of cotton of 1-1/16 inches and longer for import from the United States, which had been authorized on May 11, 1956, was suspended June 23, 1956. It is assumed that licenses issued during this period will remain valid for shipment up to December 31, 1956, as originally issued.

The resumption of cotton futures trading in Bombay on June 18, 1956, was followed by wide fluctuations in prices, but these are expected to stabilize as trading gets underway. Jarilla, Fine, 25/32 inch for March delivery, opened at 681 rupees per candy (18.24 U. S. cents a pound), declined sharply in the next few days, but recovered to 655 rupees (17.54 cents) toward the weekend. Vijay, Fine, 27/32 inch for April delivery, opened at 825 rupees (22.10 cents) fluctuated between 844 and 803 rupees, and closed at 821 rupees (21.99 cents) at the weekend. Prices exclude export tax.

Cotton production in India is less this year than last in spite of this season's larger acreage. Damage by heavy rains last fall, and by insects and diseases have reduced the 1955-56 production to an estimated 3,800,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 14 percent less than the 1954-55 crop of 4,400,000 bales. The area for the 1955-56 crop was estimated at 19,525,000 acres, or 6 percent more than the 18,350,000 acres in 1954-55.

The temporary liberalization of imports, and the suspension on April 1, 1956, of cotton exports (except unspinnable cotton - Zoda and yellow pickings) were seen as efforts to maintain the increased domestic consumption without undue reduction of stocks. India's cotton imports, mostly from Egypt, Kenya, and the Sudan, amounted to 281,000 bales during the first 7 months (August-February) of the 1955-56 marketing year. Comparable imports a year earlier amounted to 236,000 bales.

Cotton exports from India during August-February 1955-56 amounted to 355,000 bales, or more than three and one-half times the volume of 97,000 bales exported in the same months of 1954-55. Most of the increase was in exports to Japan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Italy. Quantities exported during the current period, with corresponding 1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Japan 168,000 bales (48,000); United Kingdom 41,000 (13,000); Belgium 29,000 (5,000); Italy 20,000 (3,000); Netherlands 10,000 (5,000); France 8,000 (5,000); and Western Germany 6,000 (4,000).

Cotton consumption by mills in India during the first 8 months (August-March) of the 1955-56 year amounted to 2,705,000 bales, an increase of 5 percent over the 2,581,000 bales consumed in August-March 1954-55. Indian cotton accounts for approximately 88 percent of domestic mill consumption, Egyptian cotton for about 4 percent, and the balance of 8 percent consists of other foreign growths. United States cotton amounted to 4 percent of mill consumption in August-March 1954-55, but has dropped to less than 1 percent in the current period. In addition to the 2,705,000 bales, 220,000 bales is estimated each year for noncommercial consumption.

The cotton market continues buoyant. Most varieties are selling near the maximum level of prices permitted by the Government. Little change is expected during the remainder of the season in view of the growing mill demand and the scarcity of indigenous supplies. The increase in imports of African cottons and the abolition of export duty on coarse cloth (May 15, 1956) have contributed to the strong demand. There are no export duties on other cotton fabrics. Spot quotations in Bombay during recent months have been as follows:

INDIA: Spot cotton quotations in Bombay, November 1955 - June 1956 1/
(U. S. cents a pound)

Date	Jarilla, Fine 13/16 inch	Vijay, Fine, 13/16 inch	Bengal Fine
1955:			
November 17	19.80	23.95	15.39
December 15	21.11	23.71	16.61
1956:			
January 18	20.65	23.86	16.50
February 17	20.51	23.35	17.02
March 15	20.50	24.52	17.29
April 16	20.78	24.93	17.16
May 17	21.60	25.36	17.31
June 21	21.81	25.29	17.13

1/ Quotations do not include export tax of 2.68 cents a pound.

The Government of India announced on June 27, 1956, that the floor and ceiling prices for the 1956-57 season would be the same as those for the 1955-56 season, which were as follows:

INDIA: Floor and ceiling prices for cotton, crop years 1955-56 and 1956-57

Variety	Rupees per candy (784 pounds)		Equivalent U. S. cents a pound	
	Floor	Ceiling	Floor	Ceiling
Jarilla, Fine, 25/32"	495	820	13.26	21.96
Vijay, Fine, 27/32"	565	970	15.13	25.98

Stocks of cotton held by Indian mills on March 31, 1956, amounted to 1,283,000 bales or 5 percent higher than the 1,219,000 bales held a year earlier. Stocks of Indian cotton were 1,110,000 bales, or about the same as the 1,100,000 bales held a year ago. Stocks of United States cotton were down to 5,000 bales from the 30,000 held a year earlier, while stocks of all other foreign growths were 168,000 bales as compared with 89,000 a year ago.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS HOLD AT FAVORABLE LEVEL

Exports of cotton from the United States in May 1956 amounted to 361,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (344,000 running bales), slightly lower than the 379,000 bales exported in April, but well above the exports of 240,000 bales in May 1955.

Exports during the 10-month period August-May 1955-56 amounted to 1,932,000 bales (1,842,000 running bales) or 40 percent below exports of 3,230,000 bales during August-May 1954-55. Exports by country of destination are not yet available, but will be published next week.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WHALING STATION SOLD

After considerable debate the Federal Parliament of Australia has voted to sell the government whaling station on Babbage Island off Western Australia (See page 616, Foreign Crops and Markets, May 7, 1956), and the Commonwealth Government has accepted the offer of almost $2.5 million made by a private whaling company. This whaling station, which was developed and operated by the Australian Whaling Commission, was considered to be one of the most efficient of its type in the world.

The proceeds from the sale are to be used to establish a Fisheries Development Trust Account which will be used to foster the development of the Australian fishing industry. It is thought that fishing industries in Australia have great potentialities, but up to now they have not attracted investment funds in the absence of Government support or demonstration of their economic feasibility.

1955-56 WORLD COCOA BEAN CROP
NEAR 1954-55 LEVEL

1955-56 Production: World cocoa bean production for the 1955-56 season is estimated at 1,801 million pounds (804 thousand long tons), which is 11 million pounds less than the 1954-55 crop. The current estimate exceeds the low world crop of 1953-54 by 178 million pounds.

The biggest change in production in 1955-56 compared to 1954-55 was the 17 percent drop in North America. The Dominican Republic accounted for a large portion of this decrease due primarily to light bloom. In general North American producing countries experienced unfavorable growing weather this season. Hurricane damage was suffered notably in Cuba, Haiti, and Grenada, while excessive rains and floods impaired the crop in Mexico.

Total Brazilian production for 1955-56 is estimated at 348 million pounds (155 thousand long tons). Production in Colombia and Venezuela is expected to be about the same as the previous year, while there may be some increase in Ecuador.

African production for 1955-56 is estimated to be 1,155 million pounds (516 thousand long tons). This would represent a 2.3 percent increase over the 1954-55 season. The total estimate includes a decrease for the Gold Coast, practically no change for the Ivory Coast, and increases for the French Cameroons and Nigeria when compared with the 1954-55 crop.

1956-57 Production: The present estimate for the 1956-57 Temporao (mid-crop) in Brazil is 80,000 long tons. Weather in most of the cocoa producing areas of Brazil has been ideal for a good crop.

World cocoa production for 1956-57 will probably be a little larger than in 1955-56. There will probably be a considerable increase in Central America (recovery is expected from the adverse weather conditions of 1955-56), and there will probably be a slight increase in Africa. South American and Asian production will probably be close to 1955-56 levels.

Outlook: There is a production potential for considerable expansion of cocoa. Governments of many of the major cocoa producing countries appear to be taking an increasing interest in disease control, extension work, and subsidizing cocoa production to maintain or increase production. If the post-war production trend continues there will be by 1960 an increase of probably 8.5 to 10 percent above the 1954-55 season.

COCOA BEANS: Production in principal producing countries, averages 1935/36-1939/40, 1945/46-1949/50, annual 1953-54, 1955-56 1/

Continent and country	Average 1935/36-1939/40 2/	Average 1945/46-1949/50	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA					
Costa Rica.................	14,356	11,326	3/ 20,900	3/ 24,969	3/ 22,070
Cuba.......................	7,000	6,259	7,500	5,964	4,360
Dominican Republic.........	54,049	62,164	72,060	80,213	60,186
Grenada....................	8,536	5,703	5,981	4/ 7,000	3,000
Haiti......................	3,349	3,790	5,000	4/ 3,000	3,500
Jamaica....................	4,750	4,274	4/ 4,800	4/ 5,250	6,500
Mexico.....................	2,500	13,318	27,758	26,455	22,000
Panama.....................	10,418	5,931	4,000	4,072	4/ 3,529
Trinidad and Tobago........	31,635	12,124	16,000	18,000	20,000
Other North America 5/.....	4,059	3,032	4,735	4,000	4/ 3,500
Total....................	140,652	127,921	168,739	178,923	148,645
SOUTH AMERICA					
Brazil.....................	263,980	283,870	271,470	357,145	348,100
Colombia...................	25,000	25,465	33,069	28,660	28,660
Ecuador....................	42,373	40,045	65,930	62,511	65,000
Venezuela..................	36,934	37,952	37,478	39,683	39,000
Total....................	368,287	387,332	407,947	487,999	480,760
AFRICA					
Belgian Congo..............	2,809	3,220	6,143	7,000	7,500
Fernando Po and Rio Muni...	25,000	34,208	38,636	47,390	45,000
French Cameroons...........	58,350	6/ 90,832	125,221	135,652	141,100
French Equatorial Africa...	1,871	7/	6,008	6,956	7,000
Ivory Coast................	109,937	94,424	8/ 116,844	148,810	149,000
Gold Coast 9/..............	609,363	512,350	482,975	518,271	510,765
Nigeria 10/................	216,318	222,980	218,239	222,083	250,880
Sao Thome and Principe.....	22,496	19,755	15,896	16,887	17,196
Other Africa 8/ 11/........	3,154	9,018	19,300	26,473	26,633
Total....................	1,054,298	986,787	1,029,262	1,129,522	1,155,074
ASIA AND OCEANIA					
Ceylon.....................	7,931	4,866	6,700	5,600	4/ 6,000
Indonesia..................	3,310	1,198	2,700	1,100	4/ 2,000
New Hebrides...............	3,916	2,452	2,064	1,700	4/ 2,000
Western Samoa..............	2,326	5,200	6,000	8,000	4/ 7,000
Total....................	17,483	13,716	17,464	16,400	17,000
WORLD TOTAL................	1,580,720	1,515,755	1,623,407	1,812,844	1,801,479

1/ Production in Brazil is given for the 12 months May 1 to April 30, and in most other countries for the 12 months October 1 to September 30. 2/ Export data have been used for all countries with the exception of Mexico, Cuba and Colombia. 3/ Some cocoa beans produced in Costa Rica were moved across the border for marketing in Nicaragua. 4/ Approximated from unofficial information. 5/ Includes Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, St. Lucia and St. Vincent 6/ Includes French Equatorial Africa. 7/ Included in French Cameroons. 8/ Some cocoa beans produced in Gold Coast were moved across the border for marketing in French territories. 9/ Includes British Togoland. 10/ Includes British Cameroons. 11/ Includes Angola, French Togoland, Liberia, Madagascar and Sierra Leone.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Official estimates of foreign countries, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad and other information.